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No. 3.

MEDALS OF FRANKLIN.

I KNOW of no sort of a list of medals in honor of Benjamin Franklin; and, as a beginning, give descriptions of thirty-nine in my own collection, to which it is hoped that others will be added by their owners.

W. S. APPLETON.

I. LIGHTNING AVERTED TYRANNY REPELL'D; bust of Franklin, facing the right. Rev. An oak tree, at the trunk of which a beaver is gnawing, and at the right a bunch of reeds; in exergue 1776. Silver, size 26.

II. B. FRANKLIN OF PHILADELPHIA L. L. D. & F. R. S.; bust of Franklin, at three-quarter face to the left, wearing a loose cap. Rev. NON IRRITA FULMINA CURAT; in exergue 1777+; a short stumpy tree standing in an open country; above are clouds, and lightnings striking the tree. Bronze, size 28 1-2.

III. Same obverse. Rev. 1783; an eagle, with an olive-branch in his beak, and lightnings in his talons, hovering over a part of a sphere, inscribed UNITED STATES. Bronze, size 26.

IV. BENJ. FRANKLIN MINIS^T PLEN^T DES ETATS UNIS DE L'AMERIQ., SEPT. MDCCCLXXXIII; bust of Franklin, facing the left; below, BERNIER. Rev. DE LEURS TRAVAUX NAITRA LEUR GLOIRE; in exergue DES NEUF SŒURS; at the right, F. B.; on a rocky hill a circular temple, within, and near which are the Nine Muses at work. Silver, size 19.

V. BENJ. FRANKLIN NATUS BOSTON. XVII JAN. MDCCVI; on edge of bust, DUPRE F.; bust of Franklin, facing the left. Rev. ERIPUIT CÆLO FULMEN SCEPTRUM QUE TYRANNIS; in exergue SCULPSIT ET DICAVIT AUG. DUPRE, ANNO MDCCCLXXXIV; a winged genius standing with one arm raised on an open plain; on a hill at the left is a circular temple; on the ground, a crown and sceptre, both broken; in the air a flash of lightning. Bronze, size 29.

VI. Same obverse. Rev. ERIPUIT CÆLO FULMEN SCEPTRUM QUE TYRANNIS in four lines within a wreath of oak; below, SCULPSIT ET DICAVIT AUG. DUPRE ANNO MDCCCLXXXVI. Silver, size 29.

VII. GIFT OF FRANKLIN A. D. 1788; WRIGHT & BALE N. Y.; bust of Franklin,

VOL. VII.

facing the left. Rev. REWARD OF MERIT BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, TO, in five lines; below STIMPSON. Silver, size 20.

VIII. THE GIFT OF FRANKLIN MDCCXC; on edge of bust, MITCHELL; bust of Franklin, facing the left. Rev. On a label AWARDED TO; at the bottom, F. N. MITCHELL. s^c; an ornament of rose-leaves, with two buds and a blown rose. Silver, size 21.

IX. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN OB. XVII APRILIS MDCCXC; bust of Franklin, facing the right, wearing a high cap. Rev. FULMINIS TYRANNIDISQUE DOMITOR; in exergue LAGEMAN FECIT: an electric battery, a pile of books surmounted by an inkstand, a broken sceptre and chains, and a globe, above which rests a hat. Bronze, size 25.

X. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, CAQUE F.; bust of Franklin, facing the left. Rev. NATUS BOSTONIÆ IN AMERICA FOEDERATA AN. M.DCC.VI. OBIIT AN. M.DCC.XC. SERIES NUMISMATICA UNIVERSALIS VIRORUM ILLUSTRUM. M.DCCC.XVIII. DURAND EDIDIT. Bronze, size 26.

XI. BENJAMINUS FRANKLIN; bust of Franklin, facing the left. Rev. NATUS AN. M.DCC.VI. BOSTONIÆ IN AMERICA FOEDERATA OBIIT AN. M.DCC.XC. SERIES NUMISMATICA UNIVERSALIS VIRORUM ILLUSTRUM M.DCCC.XIX. DURAND EDIDIT. Bronze, size 26.

XII. Same obverse. Rev. LES MAC^{rs}. FRANC^{rs}. A FRANKLIN M^r. DE LA L^g DES 9 SŒURS O^{rs}. DE PARIS 5778. 5829 PINGRET F.; the masonic emblem of Jehovah in a triangle, surrounded by rays, within a serpent coiled in a circle, and around this a pair of compasses and a square, entwined by olive-branches; above, are seven stars; at the left, a mallet, and at the right, a trowel. Bronze, size 26.

XIII. FRANKLIN INSTITUTE OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA. 1824; on edge of bust, GOBRECHT F.; bust of Franklin, facing the left. Rev. REWARD OF SKILL AND INGENUITY; a wreath formed by a branch of laurel and a branch of oak; below, G. Silver, size 32.

XIV. FRANKLIN INSTITUTE OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA; head of Franklin, facing the left. Rev. THE SCOTT PREMIUM TO THE MOST DESERVING. Bronze, size 34 1-2.

XV. Bust of Franklin, facing the left wearing a fur cap. Rev. FRANKLIN INSTITUTE OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA. AWARD TO. Bronze, size 24.

XVI. FRANKLIN BIENFAISANCE DU GENIE; MONTYON GENIE DE LA BIENFAISANCE; BARRE; busts of Franklin and Montyon, facing the left. Rev. LES SOUSCRIPTEURS ASSOCIES POUR PROPAGER L'HISTOIRE DES BIENFAITEURS DE L'HUMANITE 1833, in seven lines within a wreath of two branches of oak, around which, SOCIETE MONTYON ET FRANKLIN POUR LES PORTRAITS DES HOMMES UTILES; at bottom, a star. Silver, size 26 1-2.

XVII. MECHANICS LITERARY ASSOCIATION ROCHESTER; below the bust, R. LOVETT. N. Y.; bust of Franklin, facing the left. Rev. AWARDED TO; a wreath, formed by a branch of laurel and a branch of oak, tied by a bow. Bronze, size 26.

XVIII. Same obverse. Rev. In exergue HOUSE OF TEMPERANCE; a family scene of a man and woman seated at a table in a room near an open window; a child stands near the woman; and in the room are a book-case and a globe. Bronze, size 26.

XIX. Same obverse. Rev. WASHINGTON TEMPERANCE SOCIETY; below the bust, LOVETT N. Y.; head of Washington, facing the right. Bronze, size 26.

XX. Bust of Franklin, facing the left, in a wreath of olive. Rev. A wreath formed of a branch of olive and a branch of oak; at the junction, a rose between a caduceus and a trident. Lead, size 32.

XXI. BEN^N FRANKLIN. L. L. D.; bust of Franklin, facing the left, and wearing a wig. Rev. blank. Bronze, size 23.

XXII. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN; WRIGHT & BALE; bust of Franklin, facing the left, wearing a fur cap. Rev. WRIGHT & BALE ENGRAVERS AND DIE CUTTERS 68 WILLIAM ST. NEW YORK SEALS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION CARDS OF ADDRESS BOOK-BINDERS TOOLS, in seven lines. Brass, size 18.

XXIII. Busts of Franklin and Washington, at three-quarter face towards each other; in field, BALE. Rev. PAR NOBILE FRATRUM, in three lines, within a wreath of two branches of olive; above the inscription, a rose; and below it, a rose with two leaves. Silver, size 17.

XXIV. Same obverse. Rev. Heads of Washington and Lafayette, facing each other within a wreath of two branches of olive; below, W & B. Brass, size 17.

XXV. Bust of Franklin, at three-quarters face to the right; below, BALE. Rev. Bust of Washington, at three-quarters face to the left; below, BALE. Silver, size 13.

XXVI. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN; bust of Franklin, facing the left, wearing a fur cap; below, BALE and five stars. Rev. B. HOOKS. 276 BROOME STREET CORNER OF ALLEN ST^N in three straight lines, within two curved lines. Copper, size 12.

XXVII. Same obverse. Stamped with a mark of a dog before the face. Rev. blank. Copper, size 11.

XXVIII. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN; bust of Franklin, facing the left. Rev. REWARD OF MERIT, in three lines, within a wreath of two branches of olive. Tin, size 18 1-2.

XXIX. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BORN JAN. 17. 1706.; below the bust, MERRIAM; bust of Franklin, facing the left. Rev. TIME IS MONEY, in three lines, within two branches of olive, tied by a bow, around which, DILIGENCE IS THE MOTHER OF GOOD LUCK. Silver, size 20.

XXX. Same obverse. Rev. GEORGE WASHINGTON. BORN FEBRUARY 22. 1732; below the bust, MERRIAM; head of Washington, facing the right. Tin, size 20.

XXXI. B. FRANKLIN; bust of Franklin, facing the left; below, in a label, ERIPUIT CÆLO FULMEN, SCEPTRUMQUE TYRANNIS. Rev. R. LOVETT STONE SEAL ENGRAVER, & MEDALIST NEW YORK. in six lines, first, third and sixth curving. Brass, size 17 1-2.

XXXII. Same obverse. Rev. Bust of Washington, facing the left, in an ornamental circular border. Copper, size 17 1-2.

XXXIII. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN 1861; bust of Franklin, facing the left. Rev. S. H. ZAHM DEALER IN COINS, TOKENS MEDALS & C LANCASTER, PA., in six lines, all curving, except the third, IN. Copper, size 12.

XXXIV. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN; below the bust, E. SIGEL; head of Franklin, facing the right. Rev. BROAS BRO^s. NEW-YORK. around a wreath of olive, within which, ARMY AND NAVY in three lines; at each side, a star. Tin, size 12.

XXXV. Same obverse. Rev. PENNY SAVED IS A PENNY EARNED in five lines, within a wreath formed of two branches of olive, tied by a bow; above, a star. Copper, size 11 1-2.

XXXVI. T. BRIMELOW, DRUGGIST, 432 THIRD AVENUE. N. Y. around a wreath formed by a branch of olive and a branch of laurel, within which is the bust of Franklin, facing the left. Rev. T. BRIMELOW, DRUGGIST, 432 THIRD AVENUE. N. Y. around a wreath of two branches of olive, within which is 1863, divided by a mortar and pestle, above which is 1. Brass, size 15.

XXXVII. Outer circle, CHAMPION OF AMERICAN LIBERTY, SCIENCE AND MANUFACTURES.; inner circle, CELO ERIPUIT FULMEN SCEPTRUMQUE TYRANNIS FRANKLIN.; on edge of bust, *R. Lovett*; bust of Franklin, facing the right. Rev. Outer circle, NATIONAL GREATNESS REQUIRES INDUSTRIAL INDEPENDENCE. 1864; in field, THE METALS COMPOSING THIS MEDAL COPPER, ZINC, NICKEL, WERE MANUFACTURED BY JOSEPH WHARTON, OF PHILADELPHIA, PA. FROM ORES MINED BY HIM IN PENNSYLVANIA., in nine lines, the first and last curving. Bronze, size 33 1-2.

XXXVIII. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN; head of Franklin, facing the left. Rev. 1776, in a wreath of two olive branches. Silver, size 5.

XXXIX. GOD GIVETH ALL THINGS TO INDUSTRY; in exergue DAVIS BIRM. a youth seated reading at a table, on which are books and inkstand; at right a globe and a bust of Franklin on a pedestal, inscribed FRANKLIN; at the top, a trumpet, passed through a wreath of olive; in exergue two branches of olive crossed. Rev. THEN PLOUGH DEEP WHILE SLUGGARDS SLEEP AND YOU SHALL HAVE CORN TO SELL AND TO KEEP, forming two incomplete circles around a bee-hive, which stands between a rose-bush and another shrub, and near which bees are flying. Bronze, size 27.

I have also a shell of French work with head of Franklin, and inscription, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN NE A BOSTON LE 17 JANVIER 1706. MORT A PHILADELPHIE EN 1790.

MEDALS OF LAFAYETTE.

SINCE communicating to the Journal for July, 1871, (Vol. VI. p. 1,) my article on the medals of Lafayette, I have obtained several more in Paris. Number 29 (Vol. VI. p. 30) was already in my collection, and omitted by accident,—being placed among medals of Washington. Another medal, omitted for the same reason, is this:—

XXXV. Heads of Washington and Lafayette, facing each other, within a wreath of two branches of olive; below, W & B. Rev. Busts of Franklin and Washington, at three-quarters face towards each other; in field, BALE. Brass, size 17.

Of those described by Mr. Stickney, (Vol. VI. p. 59,) I now have number 33, the description of which was not there correctly given; the words in the exergue should read BARRICAD DES 27 28 29 J 1830. I have also No. 2 in silver, with REVOLUTION FRANCAISE. PAR LIENARD. AN 9. N°. 5. on the edge. My new medals are as follows:—

XXXVI. 1789 1830; head of Lafayette, facing the left; below, E. GATTEAUX. Rev. A LAFAYETTE L'ARRONDISSEMENT DE MEAUX JUILLET 1830, in five lines, within a wreath of oak. Bronze, size 32.

XXXVII. GENERAL LAFAYETTE; bust of Lafayette in uniform, facing the right. Rev. DEFENSEUR DE LA LIBERTE EN AMERI 1777 EN FRANCE 1789 ET 1830 — REVUE DU 8 AOUT 1830, in eight lines, within a wreath of oak. Tin, size 26.

XXXVIII. LAFAYETTE GENERAL EN CHEF; bust of Lafayette in uniform, facing the right. Rev. LIBERTE ORDRE PUBLIC. 1830. M BORREL; two flags crossed, on which a cock stands at the point of crossing. Bronze, size 9.

XXXIX. GENERAL LAFAYETTE; bust of Lafayette in citizen's dress, facing the right. Rev. L. PHILIPPE I. ROI DES FRANCAIS 1830; head of Louis Philippe, facing the left; below, MONTAGNY. Brass, size 8.

I have also two shells, or obverses of medals, differing entirely from any yet described. Six or eight other medals, still different, are described in the work of the Comte C. W. de Renesse Breidbach, entitled, Amusemens Numismatiques.

W. S. A.

COINS OF THE EMPEROR DECIUS.

BY ROBERT MORRIS, LL. D.

FROM a Latin work containing brief comments (*concisis interpretationibus*) by the celebrated coin-student, Vaillant, upon a number of *Selectiora Numismata* pieces of "first bronze," put in his hands for that purpose by the Abbe De Camps, (1695,) I will make an article, (by invitation) for the pages of the *Journal of Numismatics*, and supply *fac-similes* of De Camp's coins as they now appear in the great Coin-Museum of the Louvre at Paris. I select several coins of the reign of Decius, (A. D. 249 to 251,) as affording a fair variety of types within a moderate compass, and because, so far as I know, these with descriptions, have not until now been reproduced in this country.

In regard to this prince (Decius) the reader can learn all he desires from any Classical or Biographical Lexicon. A Senator of Rome, of a hardy spirit, far-seeing and capable, he was advanced to the command of the Mæsan army A. D. 249, at a critical moment in the history of Rome. Then, by his own legions, he was made Emperor. He discomfited his rival, Philip, in battle, slew him and advanced upon Rome. He greatly signalized himself against the Persians, but in his second year of rule he met the Goths in Mæsia, was defeated, his army totally destroyed, and himself and one of his sons slain, or rather, smothered in a bog. "Such," says Gibbon, "was the fate of Decius

in the fiftieth year of his age; an accomplished prince, active in war and affable in peace; who, together with his son, has deserved to be compared, both in life and death, with the brightest examples of ancient virtue." It is not to be overlooked, however, that Decius was a very cruel persecutor of the Christians, and this must go for what it is worth in forming an estimate of his character.



FIGURE 1.

This coin was struck, A. D. 249, in commemoration of the victory over his predecessor, the Emperor Philip, which elevated Decius for a brief period to the throne. The obverse has: IMP C M Q TRAIANVS DECIVS AVG.

To read this correctly the reader will bear in mind these facts:

1. No punctuation on Roman coins.
2. Very much abbreviation.
3. I represents J as well as I; V, U as well as V.

Supplying missing letters, &c., the inscription reads: Imperator Cæsar, Messius Quintus Trajanus Decius, Augustus.

The portrait very well fills our idea of a plain, honest, hard-working soldier of fifty. The peculiar crown and military embellishments covering the shoulders are well drawn. Short beard and cropped hair were soldierly characteristics. The letters "Tr. P." (Tribunitia potestate, or "Wielding the Tribunitian power,") so often seen on Roman coins of the Emperors, was omitted by this modest and patriotic ruler, because he had remitted that office to the Senate, with other imperial prerogatives, including the right of stamping money, which Hadrian, 130 years before, had arrogated to himself.

On the reverse we see a fine image of Victory, winged, bearing in her right hand a crown, in her left a palm. Comparing this charming device, of which every mark of the graver's tool expresses some symbolical thought, with the crowded and tawdry work of modern mints as seen upon the medals of the present day, we need no preacher to impress us with the fearful decay of coin-art. The legend is *Victoria Augusti*, the Triumph of Augustus.



FIGURE 2.

Our second specimen has the same reference as the first. The obverse bears the same portrait and legend. It is easy to see, however, that the *dies* used for this are not the same as those in No. 1. Indeed, so frequently were the *dies* changed in the ancient mint, owing to their ignorance of the use of *steel*, that I think there

is no authenticated example of two Roman coins in any collection that were incused between the same pair of dies! So high a relief as these large bronze coins received, could only have been achieved at the cost of many blows of sledge hammers and much consequent fracturing and *masking* down of the engraved dies.

The reverse on this coin is worthy of special praise. How happy the thought, *Felicitas Saeculi*, the "Prosperity of the Age," "The Felicity of the Times." Our old numismatist, Vaillant, in his comment upon this specimen, says that "the Felicity of the Times is worthily expressed in the coins of

Decius, for he was a man skilled in all arts and virtues, mild, domestic in his tastes, and extremely prompt (*promptissimus*) in arms. Being thus equal to the good Trajan, (of A. D. 98 to 117,) he merited, in the judgment of the Roman Senate, the name of that Great Monarch." It is not strange that the Roman world should so very greatly extol the *Felicity of the Times* under a prince of this standard.

Felicity is exhibited upon our specimen, holding out a *caduceus* in her right hand, that is to say, a "Mercury's rod; a wand entwined with two serpents and surmounted by two wings; on medals it is a symbol of good conduct, peace and prosperity. The rod represents *power*, the serpents *wisdom*, the two wings, *diligence* and *activity*." (*Webster*.) The caduceus here refers to the conclusion of the civil war in Gallia by the generalship of Decius.

Felicity in her left hand holds a cornucopia, as demonstrating the abundance of food procured by the prevalence of peace.

Our third specimen was struck by the citizens of Pergamos, the most important city in Mysia, in Asia Minor. This region, with the territory of Lydia, adjacent on the south, embraces all "the seven churches of Asia," to which St. John had addressed his celebrated letter a century and a half before, and the portion directed to Pergamos has the interesting allusion to "the hidden manna and the white stone."—(Rev. ii. 17.) The Greek tongue was vernacular there, and of course the mintage of that region has Greek legends, like the one before us.



FIGURE 3.

The portrait on the obverse is much like the last, save that the head is bound with *laurel* and the garb a *paludamentum*, or soldier's cloak. The inscription, represented by Latin characters, is AVTK G MES KVIN TRAIANOS DEKIOS.

This, in Latin, with the abbreviations filled up, would read:—Augustus (for Autocrator), Cæsar (for Kaisar), Messius, Quintus, &c. &c. The reader can readily supply the rest.

The reverse is more difficult, but with the exercise of a moderate degree of numismatic skill, we shall solve it. The figure represents Decius performing sacred rites before an altar at the time when he came to the city of Pergamos from Syria, or hastened there against Priscus, the brother of the Emperor Philip, his predecessor. His sacrifice is to Bacchus, the Oriental Victor (*Orientis Victor*), which has reference to his victories over the Persians. Bacchus therefore is seen in graceful attitude holding out to him the crown of victory. Lo, the god of wine! crowned with ivy and ivy leaves, in his left hand a thyrsus, or "staff entwined with ivy, surmounted with a pine cone or bunch of vine leaves, or with grapes and berries." How charming the unwasted youth, "the eternal boy," as he stands jauntily before the grave old soldier.

To read all these Greek letters, let us begin with the *exergue* (or line at the bottom). *Proton*, or "chief," has reference to the primacy or chieftainship which was early awarded by the Romans to the great and rich city Pergamos over her neighbors. The letter *gamma* is the figure 3, or *third*, and qualifies *Neokoron* "third Neokori." The Neorokis, (literally, *temple-server*.) was an office of honor referred to the great Temple of Diana at Ephesus. To be

appointed Neokoros for the third and fourth time, as Pergamos, Smyrna, and (perhaps) other cities were, was an office of such honor as to be entrusted to coins and other monuments. The word *Pergamenon* explains itself. The letters Epi S. Kom. Glukonos, give the name of the Prætor of the city at the time the coin was struck; S being the initial of *Strategos*, "the military prefect."



FIGURE 4.

Our next two specimens give only the reverse, for the obverse is the same as in the preceding, and need not be repeated. Specimen No. 4 was struck by the people of Samos, as the word *Samion* "of the Samians," implies. These people minted numerous coins in honor of Decius, on account of his calling upon them on his return from Syria. In the present one they pay honor to his wife, Etruscilla, by exhibiting Modesty and Piety as her characteristic virtues. Piety, on the right, veiled as a priestess, is depicted performing sacred rites, having the holy *patera* in her right hand, and in her left the image of the traditional mother who was nourished in prison from her daughter's breast. The idea of the other figure is that of *Pudicitia Augusta*, "The Modest Empress," as though the chiefs of the women would first canvass her praise, as is seen in a Roman coin that will be described hereafter.



FIGURE 5.

In Specimen No. 5 we have another coin of Samos, the island-birthplace of the great Pythagoras. On this the Samians represent their chief deities, Neptune and Jupiter. Strabo recalls a temple of Neptune on this island. Mark Antony constructed a colossal statue of Jove here for the worship of this god, which Augustus, after the defeat of that triumvir, (B. C. 31,) commanded to be removed to the capitol at Rome. The thunderbolts brandished by Jupiter in his right hand, refer to his victory over the giants whom he conquered. His sceptre is made of cypress, a symbol of the eternity of his empire, because that wood is free from corruption. Ordinarily, an eagle accompanies his effigy. Neptune with crown and trident, recalls the stories told by Greek and Roman nurses to their children in the days long past. In Greek he was termed Poseidon, because he so binds our feet that we cannot walk over his yielding and slippery domains. He was the deity of horse-races controlling the Longfellows and Harry Bassetts of his age.



FIGURE 6.

In Specimen No. 6 we have the *laurelled* Decius again, with the same homely features, and cloaked as in No. 2. The inscription is the same. This piece was coined by the people of Philadelphia, where another of St. John's "seven churches" was situated, but in partnership with the city of Ephesus, the site of the world-renowned temple of Diana. The Greek word *Omonoia*, suggests this "concord," often found between cities having the same founders, and therefore styled "sisters."

[To be continued.]

THE TEMPLE-SWEEPERS.



A coin struck in the Philadelphia Mint, at least two thousand years ago, is a puzzle for some, and a curiosity for all.

It would add to the riddle, to say that Philadelphia had to search Europe for a single specimen, and at length got it in London; and that it never was seen in Philadelphia before.

Now, to clear the mist, let it be borne in mind, that the great and good William Penn, when he was planning a capital city in these western wilds, for some reason best known to himself resolved to borrow the name from an ancient city of some note in Asia Minor. I need not dwell upon its history, of which there are some details in any Cyclopaedia. It was built to commemorate the love of two royal brothers, a thing so rare that it deserves such a monument. I have searched in vain for the precise reason why Penn adopted the name. Was it in honor of his patrons, the lovely Charles the Second, and his lovely brother James the Second? Was it to put the future citizens in mind to love one another? Or was it chiefly for the euphonious, musical sound, and the classic taste? Perhaps some letter of his contains the very reason; meanwhile we must pass on.

The ancient Greek cities which were *autonomous*, or invested with the right of making their own laws, even though under the control of a superior power, were very numerous. Like the free cities of the Middle Ages, they had the right to coin their own money; and in the earlier times they did this without complimenting the king or emperor by giving a picture of his head. The coins of more than one thousand such cities are said to be now extant.

Among those mint-cities there were two, of the name of Philadelphia: one forming a part of the Decapolis, or ten cities near the sea of Tiberias in Syria; the other in the kingdom of Lydia, about one hundred miles east of Smyrna, and lying due south of Constantinople. In modern times it bears the Turkish name of Allashehr.

It is the latter of these, that is now under consideration. It was here that the piece was coined, which is before us. It is of bronze or brass, of the size indicated by the wood-cut, weighs 86 grains, and is in good condition, although somewhat pitted with corrosion, which will attack even this enduring alloy, if not carefully kept.

There are three points of interest, partial and general, presented by this coin.

The first is, the coincidence of *name*. This perhaps will be interesting only to a *Philadelphian*. Still, those who visit the Mint here, and see this piece in its cabinet, will regard it as a special curiosity, for the name's sake. When Attalus Philadelphus founded his city, he established a mint in it; and as far

down certainly as the reign of the Roman Emperor Caracalla (how much farther we cannot say), that mint was still in operation. It therefore had a run of at least 350 years. We and our successors, of the modern Philadelphia mint, will be happy to serve the nation in our line for that length of time, if people shall so long continue in the need or love of real money.

The next point is interesting to the readers of Scripture; because this Philadelphia was one of the seven cities of Asia Minor, which was specially written to by the Apostle John, as recorded in the last book in the New Testament. (See Rev. i. 11, and iii. 7-13.) The delivery of this divine message took place near the close of the first Christian century; by which time Christianity had made great progress in that region. In fact, that was the time, or thereabouts, when Pliny, then Roman governor in the adjoining province, wrote to the Emperor Trajan, complaining that the temples were deserted, and the people everywhere taking up with the "new superstition;" and inquiring what he was to do with these Christians. His letter, and the Emperor's reply, are two of the most valuable and interesting relics of history. The fact just mentioned, will derive additional interest when we touch the next point.

Those seven cities, some of them world-renowned, lay almost in a group together; and at one of them (Ephesus) the Apostle Paul lived and labored at least three years. No doubt he was often at Philadelphia, and had occasion to use some of these very bronze coins. He was "in hunger often," and one or two such might procure some sort of a dinner, in days very different from ours. And St. John, who afterwards had the oversight of these Seven Churches, no doubt handled the same Philadelphia currency.

The third point, perhaps of more general interest, will be as to the coin itself; the devices on it, what they mean, how they are executed, and how far they illustrate the history of those times. It will appear that a mere "nehush-tan," to borrow a Hebrew term of disparagement, can tell quite a little story.

On one side, then, we have a head; not a king's nor an emperor's; as yet the free city had a pride and a privilege above that. It is a female head, an ideal, representing the city itself; or rather the dwellers in it, the *Demos*. Here in this head and title, we have the radix of that Democracy of which we hear so much. Every Democrat, and equally every Republican, may learn from a coin like this, that his political idea had an origin many centuries ago, even in Asia, with all the surroundings of despotism against it. Here my subject has a hold upon all Americans. Like the ancient Republics, we disdain to plant any man's portrait on our coins. It must be a woman's; and she must represent, not any particular person, nor womanhood in general, but the whole body of the people and their franchises. We may change her face or figure, for an escape from monotony, (the coin-collectors would like that,) but essentially she is the same, the ΔΗΜΟΣ.

This is all we can gather from the obverse. On the other side we have a larger variety: a running female figure; a dog also on the trot; a legend of some length and of more significance. Let us spread them a little.

The half-clad figure is that of the goddess, known to the Greeks as Artemis, to the Latins as Diana; and otherwise called Selene, Phœbe, Delia, or Cynthia, names still borne by many of our girls, both in fact and in fiction.

She was the favorite tutelar divinity of the cities of Asia Minor, as we shall see from the inscription; they loved her and she loved them. It was rather creditable to them to make so good a selection from the crowd. She was the patroness of chastity and purity, a proof that they held such virtue in regard. She was also the head of the department of hunting, —

Hark! the goddess Diana calls out, "To the chase!"

and let it be observed, this was not the mean chase of timid, harmless deer and rabbits, but the bold extermination of wolves, wild boars, and jackals, a mission not less benevolent than that of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

I was about to hint an argument, from these two specialties of Artemis, that they afforded a reason why a pure religion should have gained such an early and strong foothold in this region; but I observe that at Sardis and Thyatira they honored other gods on their coins, Bacchus especially. Still, the ascendancy of Artemis may have made this a better soil for the Apostles to work upon than that of Corinth, Crete, or Cyprus.

She appears here with bow, arrows, and quiver, and the faithful, indispensable dog. Better weapons have since been invented; but man or woman will never allow of a better companion than the one which delights to bark and bite.

The legend around this figure, ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΕΩΝ ΝΕΟΚΟΡΩΝ, is full of meaning: "Friend of the Philadelphians, [her] temple-sweepers."

I must here ask attention to a verse in the 19th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, which must be written a little closer to the original Greek: — "And when the Grammateus (chancellor) had appeased the people, he said, 'Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is *Neokoros* of the great goddess Artemis?'"

This *Neokoros* was, then, a title of honor for Ephesus, for Philadelphia, for several other Greek cities, all indeed which honored Artemis by erecting a Temple to her, and taking care of it.

There has been a disposition, in all ages, to make the coins bear a Confession of Faith.

If the Seven Sleepers, lying down at this very Philadelphia of the Minor Asiatics, with coins of Artemis in their pockets, should wake up four or five centuries later, they would find a conspicuous *Cross* emblazoned on the current coin. Falling asleep again, and being roused up two or three centuries farther down, the new coins would tell them, "There is only one God, and Mohammed is his messenger."

Coming westward, and nearer our own times, we find the papal coins, of course, with such mottoes as, "To God and for God"; "O, Lord, direct my steps." The courtiers of Louis Fourteenth played for gold coins, which declare that "Christ reigns and rules and conquers." Charles the First, contending with the Republicans, cries out upon his huge pounds of silver, "Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered." The coin of the Commonwealth calmly replies, "God with us." The very same words gird the new gold coins of the German Empire. The French Commune, holding Paris during the Prussian siege, and having neither time nor skill to make new dies which should omit "God protect France," (so we are informed,) continued the godly

invocation with extreme rage and chagrin. Certainly, we have abundant precedent for the Declaration of Trust, which, within a few years, has been placed upon our own coins.

But to return to Lydia and the days of old, or rather to get through. We have in this odd idea of *neokoros*, a sweeping title which affords the patronymic for all who take care of temples or churches. This honor have all the sweepers, sextons, church-wardens, vergers, and boards of trustees. Let me also give it to those who count, and get rid of, the unclean collections of small notes. It has a comical sound to our ears. Grant they were extra-religious in their way; did that chiefly show itself in flourishing the sacred broom and duster? It would seem to modern brotherly-lovers, a more eligible compliment to be spoken of as church-builders, than church-cleaners. To clear out the cobwebs is a small business. To raise the spire, rent the pews, and liquidate the debt, are the weightier matters.

It is observable that the head side, or that which represents the People, is by no means so well engraved as the reverse. An apprentice was given to the democracy, but a more skilled workman to the goddess. This was not the practice on royal and imperial coins, Grecian or Roman. The obverse, that which gave a portrait of the crowned head, was always the best executed.

Coins which illustrate Bible narrative, are more attended to now than formerly. Pinkerton, whose book was an authority nearly a century ago, made the silly remark that a Jewish shekel would be a disgrace to any collection. Thirty years ago, when we bought one for the Mint Cabinet, the price was twenty-one dollars. At present it costs about sixty dollars. Within the past quarter century, various treatises in that single line of study (Biblical coins) have been published, some of them very elaborate. They do not contain the piece here treated of; perhaps it was hardly within their scope, or not at hand.

The coins of old Philadelphia, and the cities round about, are mostly rare, but not dear. Being local, they are less sought after than more noted pieces. We requested Mr. Mickley to procure this, and after some search he found it with Messrs. Rollin and Feuardent, who have magazines in London and Paris.

I may as well add, that while Mr. M. was in Spain, he obtained another curious piece that we asked him to search for, and which can hardly be had except in that country,—a coin bearing the image of the Phœnician Baâl, struck by a colony of Phœnicians. This is the god of whom we read not a little in the Old Testament. This, with other rare pieces, was stolen from him. Another has been sent for, and if it comes, may provide matter for another article.

W. E. DuBois,
U. S. Mint, Philadelphia.

WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE GODS.

"GREAT JOVE, who wore the kingly crown,
And used to make Olympus rattle,
As if the sky was coming down,
Or all the Titans were in battle,—
Is now a sorry playhouse wight,
Content to make the groundlings wonder,
And earn some shillings every night,
By coining cheap theatric thunder."

J. G. Saxé.

TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

October 3.—A monthly meeting was held this day at 4 P. M. The Secretary read the report of the last meeting, which was accepted. He also announced a donation from Alfred Sandham, of Montreal, of No. 1 of The Canadian Antiquarian, and read a letter from Dr. Edward Jarvis, inclosing a bill for 8 "gourdes," Haytien currency, for the cabinet of the Society. The Secretary exhibited several pieces lately brought from Europe, viz: exquisite half-dollars of 1796 and 1797, the curious little token of "New Yorke in America," *rev.* Venus and Cupid; British Settlement in Kentucky, *rev.* Copper Company of Upper Canada, a proof in copper; "Continental Currency" in brass; Washington half-dollar in copper, and the large-eagle and small-eagle cents; also the three pieces bought at Frankfort, described in report of meeting of December, 1871 (the monograms should read PA. DE. VA.); the French silver coin for Canada, described in report of meeting of January, 1872, and in *Journal*, IV. 65; one of the copper coins supposed to have been struck under the charter of Sir William Alexander, for Nova Scotia; an uncirculated impression in tin of the obverse of the Washington Masonic Medal, and an impression in silver of the Revolutionary Peace Medal, No. 9, *Journal*, II. 65; also the set of the six Washington or Season Medals in silver and copper, once sold for \$900, and lately come into the hands of the Secretary from Philadelphia. These pieces were examined with interest and admiration. The Society adjourned at 5 P. M.

WILLIAM S. APPLETON, *Secretary*.

November 7.—A monthly meeting was held this day at 4 P. M. The Secretary read the report of the last meeting, which was accepted. The President announced donations from J. R. Baker of a medal in tin of the Jubilee of the Reformation by the Lutheran Church in America, 1867, and a Russian bronze medal, through Dr. S. A. Green. Mr. Seavey exhibited several choice pieces, some of which came from the sale of the collection of Dr. Clay; among them were two fine cents of 1793, the "GOD PRESERVE NEW ENGLAND, 1694," "Immune Columbia" in silver, the copper token for twelve pence of Richard Dawson, Gloucester County, Virginia, the New England threepence, (Dr. Clay's,) and the silver coin, stamped N. E. and I. The Secretary exhibited several coins of the present French Republic, 1870-1872, with two bronze medals of the Commune of Paris, the new cent of Prince Edward Island, 1871, and a curious medal, much worn, in copper gilt, with heads of George III. and his Queen, and reverse of England welcoming an American Indian, with inscription, "LOYAL ASSOCIATED REFUGEES;" nothing is known of its history. The Society adjourned about 5 P. M.

WILLIAM S. APPLETON, *Secretary*.

December 8.—A monthly meeting was held this day at 4 P. M. The Secretary read the report of the last meeting, which was accepted. Reference was made to the late fire, in which Mr. Wheeler's valuable collection of medals was burnt, and from which Dr. S. A. Green's collection had a narrow escape. The President appointed Mr. Pratt and Dr. Green a committee to nominate

officers for the next year at the annual meeting in January. M. Marcou, a Corresponding Member, exhibited some curious and rare medals: the *Voltaire* Washington, the Masonic Franklin, another of Franklin, described in this number, (see p. 49, No. II.,) and impressions of the obverse and reverse separate of another large medal, as follows: Obv. THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; the spread eagle with the shield on his breast, and motto, olive branch, and arrow; above are stars and rays. Rev. TO PEACE AND COMMERCE, IV. JUL. MDCCLXXVI, DUPRE. F.; an Indian queen personifying America, seated near bales of goods, a barrel and an anchor, and holding in her left hand a cornucopia, overflowing with fruits and grain; Mercury has just alighted near her, and at the right is the ocean, with a ship and distant hills. Mr. Rhodes exhibited a French silver medal, with the arms of Marseilles and inscription, COURTIERS DE COMMERCE, struck for some purpose by the brokers of Marseilles. Mr. Pratt showed a remarkably good specimen of the half-dime of 1802, making perhaps the fourth known of that very rare coin. Mr. Crosby exhibited several varieties of the Granby tokens, some being originals, and others copies of those not in his possession. Mr. Davenport showed a silver coin of Burmah, and Mr. Fowle a piece of silver cut out of a Spanish dollar and stamped "Nouvelle Orleans." The Secretary exhibited a specimen of the same Franklin as M. Marcou, two Granby tokens just received from England, and a bronze medal of President Lincoln, by H. Bovy, of Geneva. The meeting was a very large and interesting one. The Society adjourned a little before 5 P. M.

WILLIAM S. APPLETON, *Secretary*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Editors of American Journal of Numismatics:

Will you please publish the following description of a very old medal, that has come into my possession, and see if any of your readers can assign a date to it.

It is of a very peculiar white bronze, size 22, and was evidently *cast* instead of struck. On the obverse is a male head in high relief, with a helmet, of which the side that shows looks like a ram's horn. On a strap going over the shoulder is the Hebrew word "Moses." On the reverse is the inscription, also in Hebrew, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

Yours respectfully,

JOHN WORCESTER.

Waltham, Mass., December 9, 1872.

Editors of American Journal of Numismatics:

In the course of my travels I visited twenty-four different Mints, and was everywhere well received. The Directors or Mint-masters were generally scientific men; in many instances they went with me through their respective establishments, showing and explaining everything about the operations, with which they were perfectly familiar. In three Mints, those of Rome, Milan, and München, the works are moved by water, that at Carlsruhe by horses, all the others by steam-power. I did not see anything remarkable differing from

our Mint, except the separating machine in use in several Mints. This ingenious affair consists of a peculiarly constructed weighing scale, with three different compartments in which the coins are thrown from the scale, the light pieces in one, the heavy in another, and those of the proper weight in the third. This machine is more particularly used for gold coins. From each Mint I obtained fine specimens of the coins, by Mr. DuBois' request, for the cabinet in our Mint, where they can now be seen. In every instance the Directors tried to select the best specimens; no extra charge was made beyond the intrinsic value of the coins.

I saw many fine collections of coins, public and private. One of the finest, perhaps the very finest, is in the Antiquarian Museum in Madrid: it is uncommonly rich in Greek and Roman coins, some pronounced *unique*, and mostly in a beautiful state of preservation. The series relating to Spain, viz: Celtiberian, Roman, Gothic, Moorish, and the Spanish up to the present time, appears to be very complete. I was astonished to see such a vast number of well preserved pieces in that wonderful collection.

There are but a few collections in which coins relating to our country, either colonial or national, are met with: some are in the British Museum; among them, is the series of Lord Baltimore, in silver and copper, a fine U. S. dollar of 1794, and a few other pieces. In Berlin are a few, but nothing remarkable; in Stockholm, a fine half-eagle of 1815; besides this piece, I do not recollect seeing any others in that collection. I met a gentleman in Berlin who collects American coins.

In Vol. VI., No. 4 of your Journal, information is wanted about the Washington Medal by Joseph Wright. Many years ago I asked the late Erskine Hazard about it. He informed me that when he was a boy, his father, Ebenezer Hazard, gave him that medal; that he bought a watch, gave that medal in part payment, for which he was allowed half a dollar, which was about its intrinsic value. Some years afterwards he inquired of the watchmaker what had become of the medal, and was told it had been put in the melting pot with other silver. Mr. Hazard did not know of the existence of any other specimen from that die, nor what had become of the broken die.

In Vol. V., No. 4, I find an error in the article written by my friend DuBois, though I do not consider it of any consequence to correct it. He states that my father was a German. This is not the case; both my father and grandfather were born in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

Yours truly,

JOS. J. MICKLEV.

Philadelphia, November 8, 1872.

BIRCH SALE.

At the sale of coins by Thomas Birch & Son, Philadelphia, December 18, 1872, the following Colonial and United States coins brought the prices affixed:—

Elton's Card, 1757. *Obv.* Indian selling skins to a Trapper. "The red men come to Elton's daily." *Rev.* A Deer reclining. "Skins bought at Elton's." Said to be the oldest American

store card. Copper; size 22. Pierced, but in very good condition for such an excessively rare piece. \$25.00.

1785. Vermontis Res Publica. The sun to the right. The date well up in the piece, between the lettering and the Plough. Poor, but believed to be unique. \$9.00.

Samaritan shilling, struck from the Wyatt dies by the late Mr. Bishop, for his own collection. Uncirculated. Gold. Unique. (Dies destroyed.) \$10.00.

1796. "British settlement of Kentucky." *Obv.* Hope presenting two children to the Goddess of Liberty. *Rev.* Britannia with spear inverted. Legend, "Payable by P. P. P. Myddleton." Silver. Proof. Excessively rare. \$25.00.

1774. Virginia shilling. But two or three of these pieces known to collectors. Silver. Uncirculated. Exceedingly rare. This piece brought \$130 in the Lightbody sale. \$120.00.

Libertas Americana Medal. *Rev.* Communi Consensus. Silver. Proof. Slightly damaged. Size 28. Very scarce. \$10.00.

1792. Washington cent. *Obv.* "Washington, President." *Rev.* Eagle with expanded wings and a semicircle of thirteen stars directly over its head. In very good condition for this exceedingly rare piece. \$60.00.

Eccleston Washington Medal. Thick planchet. Very fine. Bronze. Size 48. Scarce. \$5.00.

Granby or Higley copper. *Obv.* A Deer facing left, surrounded by the legend, "Value me as you please." *Rev.* Three Hammers crowned. "I am good copper." "1737." In very good condition for so rare a piece. But few specimens known. \$17.00.

Granby or Higley copper. *Obv.* Like the last. *Rev.* A Broad-Axe, "I cut my way through." In good condition and extremely rare. \$18.00.

1797. United States dollar. Seven stars facing. *Rev.* Seven berries on Laurel. Very fine. \$8.00.

1846. United States dollar. Proof. Slightly tarnished. Rare. \$15.00.

1796. United States quarter dollar. Fine proof. A magnificent piece. The finest quarter dollar of this date ever offered at public sale. \$60.00.

1793. Cent. Chain. Very fine. \$7.50.

1796. Half cent. Obverse plain and distinct, much better than the Reverse, but in very good condition for this excessively rare and desirable piece. \$20.00.

1856. Proof nickel cent. \$1.75.

1783. Nova Constellatio dollar, or 1,000 mill piece. *Obv.* "U. S. 1000" in centre of a Laurel wreath, surrounded by the Legend, "Libertas Justitia." *Rev.* In the centre an eye and rays, with a circle of thirteen stars intermingling with the rays, surrounded by the Legend, "Nova Constellatio." Engrailed edge. Silver proof. Weight, 11 dwts. 4 gr. Unique.

1783. Nova Constellatio half dollar, or 500 mill piece. *Obv.* "U. S. 500." Similar in design, and a companion piece to the preceding. Silver proof. Weight, 5 dwts. 15 gr. Unique. \$540.00.

SALES OF COINS AND MEDALS.

A SALE of coins belonging to C. N. Bodey, of Orwigsburg, Pa., by T. Birch & Son, took place at Philadelphia, October 29 and 30, 1872.

In the collection was a Pattern Cent of 1792, silver centre, size 15, and a New York cent, "Liber Natus Libertatem Defendo;" both of which were counterfeit. We give a list of the most desirable pieces, and the prices which they brought:—

Dollars.—1794, fair, \$9.00; 1795, v. f. \$2.50; 1796, good, \$2.40; 1797, six stars, v. g. \$2.50; 1798, large eagle, v. f. \$2.25; do. small eagle, \$2.50; 1799, f. \$2.75; 1800, v. f. \$2.52; 1801, f. \$2.75; 1802, f. \$2.25; 1803, f. \$2.00; 1840-42, uncir. \$2.00 each; 1845, do. \$2.60; 1846, do. \$2.12; 1851 and 1852, proofs, \$30.00 each; 1854, fine, \$7.00; 1855, f. \$4.50; 1856, f. \$4.00; 1857, f. \$2.25; 1858, proof, \$8.25.

Half Dollars.—1794, f. \$2.50; 1796, f. \$21.00; 1797, f. \$16.00; 1815, uncir. \$4.00; 1834, proof, \$5.25; 1851, uncir. \$2.50; 1852, do. \$3.00; 1852, do. \$2.25; 1858, proof, \$3.75; 1861, proof, \$3.00.

Quarter Dollars.—1796, proof, \$17.00; 1828, uncir. \$2.60; 1832, uncir. \$4.10.

Dimes. — 1797, v. f. \$5.75; 1827, proof, \$2.00.
 Half Dimes. — 1796, f. \$3.50; 1805, g. \$2.75.
 Cents. — 1804, v. g. \$6.00; 1809, f. \$4.00; 1820, proof, \$4.00.
 Half Cents. — 1831, proof, \$14.50; 1836, f. \$12.00; 1840, '41, and '48, proofs, \$10.00 each; 1852, proof, \$8.00; 1856, Nickel Cent, proof, \$2.25.
 Flying Eagle Dollar, proof, 1836, \$5.00; do. 1838, \$35.00; half do. Standing Eagle, \$4.00; 1839, Flying Eagle, proof, \$25.50; Washington Half Dollar, 1792, size 21, good, \$42.00; Immunis Columbia Cent, fine, \$18.00.

A collection of coins, paper money, and priced catalogues, was sold by Bangs, Merwin & Co., New York, on the 11th of November last. The most desirable lots were the following:—

Hibernia Halfpenny, proof, \$2.75; Dollars, 1794, good, \$4.00; 1802, fine, \$3.75; 1859, uncirculated, \$3.25; 1860, uncir. \$3.00; Quarter Dollar, 1844, fine, \$1.12; Dime, 1796, pierced, \$1.00; Half Dime, 1796, fine, \$8.50; do. 1805, poor, \$1.12; do. 1838, no stars, very good, \$1.00; 1846, fair, \$1.00. Feuchtwanger Three-cent piece, Eagle on a Rock, proof, \$6.00; Nickel Cent, 1859, rare variety, \$2.12; Prince of Wales' Medal, by Wyon, copper, \$7.25; Stonewall Jackson Medal, \$6.50; Cents, 1795, thin die, good, \$2.50; 1796, fair, \$2.00; 1803, uncir. \$1.12; 1804, good, \$4.62; 1809, fair, \$2.50; 1820, uncir. \$2.37. Half Cents, 1802, poor, \$1.25; 1842, proof, \$20.00. Mint Cabinet Medal, silver, \$4.50; Cogan's Medal, Rev. George Washington, 1776, Washington on Horseback, proof, \$6.75. Angel of Henry VIII., gold, \$6.00; Penny of Richard I., silver, \$11.00; Edward I. Penny, \$2.00; Henry IV. Groat, \$1.00; another, \$2.00; Henry VIII. do. \$2.75; James II. Shilling, 1687, uncirculated, scarce, \$10.00; New Jersey Cent, rare variety, \$5.50; Kentucky Cent, good, \$2.00; Paper Money, Continental, \$20.00, May 10, 1775, \$2.00; other bills from 4 to 50 cents each. Priced Catalogues, H. A. Smith's, March, 1863, \$1.00; G. P. Leavitt's, September, 1863, \$1.00; G. F. Seavey's, September, 1863, \$2.50; Sanitary Fair, March, 1864, \$2.00; John Allan's, May, 1864, \$1.00; G. F. Seavey's, June, 1864, \$1.00; Beckford & Co., July 13, 1864, \$2.00; do. do. July 27, \$1.75; Dr. Edwards', October, 1865, \$1.00; Thomas & Son's, November, 1866, \$1.12; S. H. Chadbourne, September, 1867, \$1.62; J. C. Nippes, July, 1868, \$2.50; Medal of Martin Luther, size 14, \$14.00.

COINAGE.

FACTS are such stubborn things that they do not yield to mere denials and assertions. That the last issue of gold and silver coin from the mint in London was unsatisfactory, was lately mentioned and condemned in the money article of the *Times* a few weeks ago. The charge was, that the new silver coins were so badly executed that they looked like counterfeits, and that the new gold sovereigns, when paid into the Bank of England, were accepted there only with a deduction of fourpence (eight cents) upon each. The apology, — for no answer to this charge has yet been made, — was that the errors in question had arisen out of carelessness and haste in the rapid production of the new coinage. He who, under such circumstances, is "certain that all apprehensions as to the integrity of the British coinage may be dismissed," and who seriously speaks of "effectual checks" (at the London mint) to insure accuracy in the weight and fineness of its coins, is credulous to a degree, the facts being against him.

Mr. Tomline, who has publicly charged the English Mint with issuing silver shillings 5 1-4 per cent. less value than the legal standard, is a member of

Parliament who has paid great attention to the British coinage, and, during the last session, exposed the incapacity of Mr. Lowe (who is Master of the Mint, *ex officio*, because he is Chancellor of the Exchequer), and, no doubt, caused the defeat of his proposal to have a new mint erected and fitted up under a fashion of his own. Nothing is more likely than that the same admitted "carelessness" and "haste" which produced a golden sovereign actually worth eight cents less than its nominal value, may have led to a deterioration in the silver shilling. Mr. Tomline has made a serious charge, in the most public manner, and the authorities at the Mint have not shown an alacrity in rebutting the accusation. Possibly, Mr. Lowe reserves his reply — denial, apology, or confession — for the old tilting-place, the House of Commons, next session.

Until the year 1850 the office of Master of the British Mint was little more than a political sinecure, vacated on each change of Ministry. In 1850 Sir John Herschel, one of the deepest philosophers and great men of science in Europe, was placed in this office, then first made permanent. On his resignation, in 1855, Dr. Thomas Graham, well known during his eighteen years' distinguished occupancy of the chair of chemistry in the University of London, was made Master of the Mint, and may be said to have literally thrown himself, with the well known ardor of his nature, into the execution of his duties. He remained in office until his death in 1869, when, in a spirit of economy which saves nothing in the end, it was resolved that the office should be abolished, to merge in that of Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is just cause for complaint, we repeat, that Mr. Lowe has not attended to the additional duties thus imposed upon him. Mr. C. W. Freemantle, the Deputy Master, does not possess the powers necessary to make the Mint as entirely efficient as it was during the fourteen years Dr. Graham was at the head of that establishment.

In closing this subject, we reassert, with all the confidence of truth and conviction, that the shortcomings and wrongdoings complained of as to the British could not have occurred in connection with American coinage, which for care in production and accuracy as to value cannot be surpassed in any country. — *Philadelphia Press*, Nov. 15, 1872.

THE COINAGE QUESTION AGAIN.

To the Editor of The Press:—

SIR: The article in a recent number of *The Press* on the subject of "debased coinage," is unjust to the British coinage, as well as the mint of that country.

As to the statements made by Colonel Tomline, they may be disposed of very quickly. Either his knowledge of the functions as prescribed by law of the gold and silver coinage of this country is very limited, or, for political purposes, he has intentionally misstated the facts. What he is pleased to term "debasement," is nothing more nor less than the "seigniorage" exacted from the subsidiary (silver) coin, which is done to a greater or less extent in all countries where gold is the standard of value. To the credit of Great Britain, it should be added that the fund accruing from the difference between the

intrinsic and *nominal* value of the silver coin is largely applied in keeping that coinage in good repair, considerable sums of worn coin being annually redeemed at par and recoinced.

It is possible that a new sovereign of less than legal weight found its way to the bank. If so, it is more likely to have been artificially reduced in weight than to have passed the numerous checks used at the mint to prevent the issue of light pieces.

While the Chancellor of the Exchequer is the nominal head of the mint, the institution is under the direct personal supervision of an officer termed the "Deputy Master of the Mint," who performs similar functions to the Director of the Mint of the United States.

During a recent visit to Europe it was my privilege to thoroughly examine the London mint; also, to attend the annual trial of the "pyx," or coinage; and I am certain that all apprehensions as to the integrity of the British coinage may be dismissed. No government is more careful in the maintenance of its standard of value, or has adopted more effectual checks to insure accuracy in the weight and fineness of its coins.

The greater portion of the coining machinery used in the London mint is quite inferior to that employed in the United States mints, and one of the first reforms attempted by Chancellor Lowe was to obtain authority from Parliament to erect a new mint edifice, and fit it up with the latest and most improved machinery. The bill for that purpose, although ably urged by the Chancellor failed in the House of Commons, which is to be regretted.

Very respectfully,

H. R. LINDERMAN.

Philadelphia.

THE SILVER CURRENCY OF ENGLAND.

To the Editor of the Press:

SIR: I must ask the editor of *The Press* to reëxamine the subject which he has lately brought up under the head of "Debased Coinage." He has certainly been misled by the letter written by Colonel Tomline, M. P. for Great Grimsby, which seems another name for "Buncombe."

The silver coin of England was reduced (not debased) more than fifty years ago, in order to make it play a subsidiary part to gold, and to keep it from being exported. It is only a legal tender for forty shillings, and it is always exchangeable at par for gold. It is, therefore, not true that "the workmen pay 9 1-4 per cent. more than they ought to pay for all foreign produce — tea, coffee, tobacco," etc.

There is a similar difference, for similar ends, between gold and silver in other countries of Europe, and in our own monetary system, though not to the same degree. It is the very system to keep up silver change, even when gold is scarce, or somewhat at a premium as against bank notes.

The other complaint, the issue of new gold sovereigns of light weight, is a very different matter, and one that will be looked into by those who make such inquiries their business. This would be a great departure from the usual care and accuracy observed at that mint.

ASSAYER.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ART.

THE patrons and lovers of fine arts will be gratified at the announcement that the site for the "Metropolitan Museum of Art" in New York, has been finally selected, the plans for the structure agreed upon, and work commenced. Another important item is, that the trustees of the Museum have ordered a duplicate of the best specimens of the splendid collection in the South Kensington Museum, London; and a still more satisfactory announcement is, that the rare and valuable objects of art, consisting of antique statues, superb vases, and rich specimens of ancient sculpture and handiwork, recently discovered in the island of Cyprus, have just been secured, at a large outlay, for the new museum.

The proposed building is to be erected in Central Park, on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Seventy-ninth Street. One of the first official acts of Comptroller Green was to secure this fund of \$150,000 for its legitimate purpose, and the new Board of Park Commissioners have been active in their efforts to establish the Museum on a firm basis, believing that it is destined to become one of the grandest of our public institutions. One of the commissioners accepted his position principally to assist in this undertaking. The trustees of the Museum, an honorary body of prominent citizens, have made great exertions in its behalf, and the temporary gallery in Fifth Avenue is the result of their labors. Under the supervision of Mr. George P. Putnam, this gallery has become an attraction of the city, besides being a school for artists and art students.

Respecting the new additions to the Museum, the most important will be the Cyprus Collection. This collection, beyond its intrinsic value, has a history which is of special interest to Americans. The following are the principal facts relating to it: Gen. Di Cesnola, late Colonel of the Fourth New York Cavalry, was appointed Consul to Cyprus at the close of the war, and while there he devoted himself to studying the traditions and antiquities of the island. Receiving special permit from the authorities, he commenced explorations among the ancient tombs and temple sites, for which Cyprus is historic, and made extensive discoveries. In the course of a few years he secured a valuable collection, including busts, statues, and curiosities of every description. This he recently shipped to England, with a view to its disposal to some public institution, and the British Museum was proposing to buy it, when Mr. J. T. Johnston of New York, aware of its value and the necessity of prompt action, if it was to be secured for this country, made final arrangements for its purchase for the New York Museum.

The collection has been valued at \$200,000, if disposed of in parcels; but in view of the fact that it would be taken as a whole and brought to the United States, Gen. Di Cesnola parted with it at a much less sum. The British Museum coveted the collection, but New York happily comes into final possession of it. To give a full description of the collection in a brief space would be impossible. It includes objects from colossal Phœnician heads to the smallest coins and gems of art; and some idea of the extent of Di Cesnola's excavations may be gathered from the fact that he opened 8,000 tombs. Of objects which will especially interest art-lovers, there are Greek and Egyptian heads

from the Temple of Venus at Golgos, statues of Macedonians and Phœnicians, gigantic Assyrian heads, bronze statuettes, etc. To the archæologist, the collection will be a mine for thought and speculation. It is believed that the Phœnician relics are the first that have been discovered of that early maritime people, and the various specimens will materially aid specialists and antiquaries in furnishing clearer pictures of Eastern life and manners, three thousand years ago. A Mr. Hitchcock, who visited Gen. Di Cesnola in Cyprus, states that his collection, in 1870, numbered 13,000 pieces, comprising many statues, 1,800 lamps, 5,000 vases, 2,000 coins, 600 gold ornaments, 1,700 pieces of glass of all descriptions, 300 pieces of bronze, and 100 inscriptions. Of the vases 869 are of different designs. The discovery of these relics is considered one of the most important of the century, and the royal museums have sent their representatives to inspect them.

In the summer of 1870, the Emperor of France authorized a liberal offer for it in behalf of the Imperial Museum of the Louvre, but the German war put an end to his enterprise as well as to his empire. Said Mr. Hitchcock: "The importance of the discoveries in Cyprus is recognized by the world of science, and Di Cesnola has been made an honorary member of the archæological societies of Athens, Rome, Dresden, Berlin, and Paris, and other royal academies. It is to be hoped that America, of which the discoverer is a worthy and honored citizen, will anticipate the action of London, Berlin, and St. Petersburg, and secure this rare collection." The general plans of the building for the Museum have been made by the architect of the Park, with the concurrence of an advisory board of architects, representing the trustees. It is proposed to establish at first a central building, to which eventually as necessity arises, wings and extensions can be added.

In the main part there will be four galleries, each ninety-five feet long, and lighted from above. The ground floor will be an open court, girted with gardens and fountains, and affording ample room for statuary, vases, monuments, etc. To complete this extensive project will necessarily take time, but the citizens of New York will be amply repaid for their patience, as the Museum cannot fail to become the pride of the city. The present gallery in Fifth Avenue has just received accessions in the shape of Houdon's original bust of Franklin, two striking pictures by the Dutch artist, Vanderhelst, and a fine painting by Carel de Moor, whose works are seldom met with. The South Kensington Collection consists of beautiful statues, vases, potteries, etc., and a duplicate of these has been ordered by the trustees for the Museum. — *Boston Transcript*.

GOLD! GOLD! GOLD!

WIDE-WASTING pest! that rages unconfined,
And crowds with crimes the records of mankind;
For gold, his sword the hireling ruffian draws;
For gold, the hireling judge distorts the laws;
Wealth heaped on wealth, nor truth nor safety buys,
The dangers gather as the treasures rise.

THE CHOICE OF KING MIDAS.

"GOLD, gold, money untold!"
Cried Midas to Bacchus, beseeching.
Said the god, "I'm afraid,
By the prayer you have made,
You are vastly too overreaching.
But the gold I will grant,
Aye, more than you want."
Said Midas, "My coffer
Holds more than your offer,
So grant me the treasure without stint or measure."

Gold, gold, money untold,
King Midas found came to his wishes:
Wherever he trod,
Rich gold was his sod;
Gold covered his meat and his dishes!
No mint more prolific,
His touch was specific,
And turned all to ore that was gold to the core.

Gold, gold, money untold!
"Alas!" cried the monarch, confounded,
"I would rather, I think,
Have good victuals and drink
Than be with such metal surrounded.
Mighty Bacchus, I pray,
Let your gift pass away,
For gold of itself can no hunger allay!"

"Gold, gold, money untold,"
Said the god to the penitent miser,
"Is a gift of no worth
To the children of earth,
Nor makes them the better or wiser!
But a way I'll unfold
To wash off your gold,
If you wish me to be your adviser."

"Gold, gold, money untold,
To be rid of you I will endeavor."
So the King laid aside
Both his robes and his pride,
And plunged into Pactolus River.
From his skin fell away
All the gold, strange to say,
And is left in the sands there forever!

Though good is gold, to have and hold,
This story makes it clear,
Who sells himself for sordid pelf,
Has bought it much too dear!

EDITORIAL.

By the late calamity in Boston, this issue of the Journal has been unavoidably delayed; our loss was the first "form," which was ready for the press; a number of cuts which had been kindly furnished by our friend Dr. Morris, a portion of which have, however, been reproduced for this number; and paper sufficient for the present and the next volume of our publication, together with electrotypes of the Seals of the Society.

THE CHAMPION NUMISMATIST. — It may not be generally known that Dr. Charles Spier of this place is the oldest living and most successful numismatist in the world. He has been engaged in the collection of coins for over fifty-seven years, and has now over 14,000 pieces, representing every species of coin ever produced in any year, or under the dominion of any sovereign or government, from the days of Semiramis and the Pharaohs down to the present time. His collection is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. He has over 10,000 of his pieces in the vaults of the Bank of California, and 4,000, or over, here. At the Bank of California his collection is pronounced the best and most valuable in existence, not excepting those of Queen Victoria and the Sultan of Turkey, which are particularly extensive and valuable. A few days ago we examined the 4,000 of his pieces which he keeps here. They proved a most interesting study. Coins of the ancient Jewish kingdom, of the various kings, consuls, and emperors of Rome, of Tyre, Sidon, Carthage, Nineveh, Babylon, China, Palmyra, Egypt, Japan, etc., with specimens of every year's coinage in all Christian lands from the time of Constantine till now, were exhibited in prodigal profusion. The Doctor has many coins which would sell for many thousands of dollars each. His collection has been the work of a very extended lifetime. He has travelled nearly all over the world, and is constantly receiving new additions to his pieces from Europe and the East. He has gold and silver coins from the size of a very large teacup, down to that of a pea. We wish we had the space to particularly describe some of them. The Doctor, who is in easy circumstances and greatly advanced in years, though still robust for one of his age, remains in Visalia on account of the excellence of the climate. His collection is very interesting to any one appreciating the mementoes of antiquity. — *Visalia, Cal., Delta.*

We cut the preceding from the *Transcript* of December 28, and cannot refrain from a few remarks on it. Dr. Spier, whose fame had not previously reached the Atlantic, may be the "oldest living," but it is by no means certain that he is the "most successful numismatist in the world." If his collection numbers only 14,000 pieces, it cannot contain representatives of all the species of coin claimed for it. The collection is certainly *not* worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, and does *not* contain many coins which would sell for many thousands of dollars each. It is very doubtful if the collection is even the most valuable in the United States; and it is but a mere trifle in comparison with the great collections of Europe, such as those of the British Museum, the National Library at Paris, and the Imperial Library at Vienna. — Eds.

We learn that Mr. George F. Seavey, of Cambridgeport, Mass., will offer his entire collection at private sale. He is desirous that it should be kept together, if possible, as it is thought to be more complete than any other collection of American coins extant, and undoubtedly the finest in condition. It contains a specimen of American coins of every date ever struck, of gold, silver, copper, nickel, and bronze, and as fine and complete a series of colonial and pattern pieces as can be found in any one collection.

THE Mint at Philadelphia has begun melting one million one-dollar gold pieces, to be coined into pieces of a larger denomination. Twenty millions of these coins are to be thus converted. The French gold five-franc, of less value than our dollar piece, is five eighths of an inch in diameter, and is an unexceptionable coin; were our pieces made of the same thickness only, the objection to their present size would be removed.

At a late sale in Philadelphia, the Pattern Cent, of 1792, with silver centre, size 15, proved to be a counterfeit; from the description we judge that it is a dangerous one. The "New York Cent," which was also a counterfeit, was poorly executed.

MANSELL & CO., of London, are publishing a series of photographs of the Archæological and Art Collections in the British Museum, which are intended to illustrate the vast domain of Archæology. The first series comprises nearly one thousand photographs, representing many thousand objects. The price is two shillings per copy; size, 10 by 12 inches.

THE Newgate copper mines in Connecticut, from which the first copper coinage of the country was made by John Higley, a Granby blacksmith, in 1737, after lying idle a long time, have been inspected by parties who propose to develop them in the spring, there being evidence that they contain an abundance of valuable metal.

"*Mind Your Business ;*" *Ring, or Franklin Cent* (vol. vi. p. 100). The first owners of the dies of this cent, as far as we can learn, were Broom & Platt, hardware dealers, of New Haven, Conn. There were three sets of dies ; our informant, Mr. H. N. Rust, tells us that he found a single die at Bridgeport, Conn., in 1858 ; afterwards he obtained the remaining five parts of the dies in the store formerly occupied by Broom & Platt, in New Haven.

Mr. Rust sold three of the dies to a dealer in New York City, but who did not succeed in obtaining good impressions from them. Mr. R. had some three or four hundred pieces struck at Waterbury, Conn., in a metal composed of copper and nickel, also a few in silver, and one only in gold.

The Curiosity Hunter, a monthly of four pages, 8vo, published at Rockford, Illinois, is devoted to the dissemination of information in regard to "all kinds of Curiosities, whether of Nature, Science, Art, Literature, or Antiquity." Monthly, fifty cents per annum.

Mason's Coin Collectors' Magazine is now issued quarterly, instead of monthly, as formerly. It contains many articles of interest and value, and we take pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to it. The price is \$1.50 a year in advance, and it is published by Mason & Co., corner of Tenth and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia.

CURRENCY.

HARD cash is legal tender.

HUSH money — Nurse's wages.

DOLLARS come by saving pence.

THE table of interest is the dinner table.

IOWA can now say, I-owe-a penny to nobody.

ODE to the money-lender — "Meet me a loan."

MONEY is like promises, easier made than kept.

A MERK, a Scotch silver coin, worth about \$3.25.

A FREE Agent — one who goes off with his master's cash.

AN object of interest — your deposit in the savings' bank.

SPEECH is silver, but silence golden. Hence the expression, "hush money."

A NEW YORK woman speaks of her husband as her two thousand dollar darling, that being the amount of his life policy.

SOMEBODY has translated the old maxim, "The pen is mightier than the sword," into "The penny's mightier than the sword."

"WHAT are you going to buy, Sonny?" "A ha'porth of nails." "What do you want a ha'porth of nails for?" "For a halfpenny," was the reply.

SOLOMON saith, "A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband." By this rule the most valuable of the sex is worth just one dollar and twenty-five cents.

At the Roxburghe Sale [London, 1812], the Decameron of Boccaccio, printed by Valdarfer, at Venice, 1471, produced the largest sum ever given for a single volume, viz., £2,260.